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An end to Appliance Rebates and a new beginning for offshore wind

What's happening at MEA

Early this month, the [Maryland Energy Administration](#) (MEA) announced the conclusion of its [Appliance Rebate Program](#). Before the announcement, the program, using [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) funds, had already processed rebates for more than 14,000 clothes washers, 3,500 refrigerators and nearly 3,000 central air conditioners and air source heat pumps. Those numbers increased substantially as the Nov. 12 deadline approached, and a final tally will be announced in the coming weeks. The program has helped bring Maryland closer to achieving [Governor Martin O'Malley](#)'s goal of a 15% reduction in the state's energy consumption by 2015.

November was a big month for renewable energy as well. The federal government accepted the planning recommendations of the Maryland Offshore Wind Task Force, and issued both a Request for Interest (RFI) and a map of an offshore wind leasing area in federal waters adjacent to Maryland's Atlantic Coast. This makes Maryland only the second state in the nation to reach this point in the process. As a leader in developing offshore wind, Maryland has the opportunity to create thousands of green collar jobs, reduce harmful air pollution and bring clean energy to Maryland. This also helps the state reach its goal to generate 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2022.

MEA EmPOWERs Clean Energy Communities and visionary artists

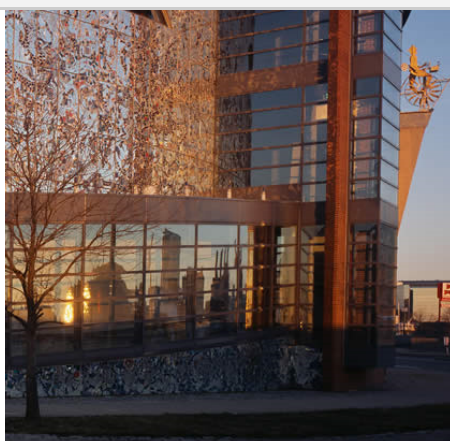


For Baltimore's [American Visionary Art Museum](#), replacing the HVAC chiller to the 15-year-old exhibition building was a critical fix. Besides cooling its more than 100,000 annual visitors, the museum is responsible for the preservation of a vast collection of visionary

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art.

Katie Adams, the museum's Director of Development, identifies the museum as a "storehouse for intuitive, self-taught artists" and notes that AVAM is the "only museum of its kind in the country." She says, "It is imperative we maintain care of the collection." Temperature and humidity are

concerns for the curators of this unique collection.

AVAM received a \$40,000 grant through the [EmPOWER Clean Energy Communities Grant program](#). In addition to replacing the chiller, the funds are being used to seal the roofing connection to further preserve interior climate conditions. These energy efficiency improvements, which are also partially funded by a zero-interest [Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan](#) from the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), contributed to energy savings estimated at 78,000 kWh every year, which would translate to an annual savings of more than \$9,000*.

More importantly, "MEA sparked our conversations about energy savings," says Adams. AVAM is actively seeking ways to incorporate further efficiency improvements throughout its campus. The museum has recently pursued a comprehensive energy efficiency audit, and "as soon as we get that energy audit," Adams says, "I think we'll be able to rock and roll with a lot of projects."

Adams' has a newfound excitement for energy efficiency. "At AVAM, we're all about creative acts of all sorts," she says. "If that comes as financial savings and sustainability, that's great."

*\$9,165 is based on a commercial rate of 11.75 cents per kWh per <http://www.eia.doe.gov>.

Read more [MEA success stories](#).

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[The Maryland Energy Administration](#) offers a wide variety of resources, strategies and information to help you reduce your energy consumption, increase your understanding of alternative energy, and ultimately help [EmPower](#) fellow Marylanders to take control of our energy future. For

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